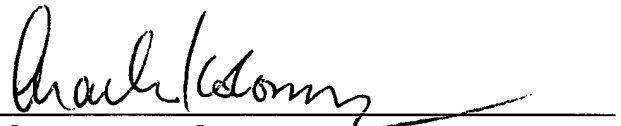


REMARKS

Enclosed herewith is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-identified patent application, which is a divisional of prior U.S. Application Serial No. 09/111,915, filed July 8, 1998, from which priority is claimed under 35 USC §120.

By this Amendment, Claims 1-11, 37, 38 and 39 have been cancelled. Claims 12-36 remain in the application. Favorable consideration and allowance of Claims 12-36 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew G. Kolomayets
Registration No. 33,723

COOK, ALEX, MCFARRON, MANZO,
CUMMINGS & MEHLER, LTD.
200 West Adams Street
Suite 2850
Chicago, IL 60606
(312)236-8500